



REPI

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM USING REPI PROGRAM FUNDING AS MATCH FOR USDA AND DOI PROGRAMS

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program works to protect the military's ability to accomplish its training, testing, and operational missions by helping relieve or avoid land-use conflicts near military installations and addressing regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities.

Through the REPI Program, DoD supports cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services and private conservation organizations or state and local governments to acquire easements or other interests in land from willing sellers near installations and ranges. By maintaining compatible land uses and preserving habitat where the military tests, trains, and operates, REPI Program buffer partnerships also provide benefits to working agricultural lands, wildlife habitats, and rural communities.

REPI Funds Eligible to Match USDA and DoI Grants

The REPI statute allows the recipient of REPI funds to use such funds as the match or cost-sharing requirement for any conservation program of the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.¹ REPI partners can match DoD funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program,² the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Forest Legacy Program, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.³ The Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) repealed the sunset clause included in the FY2014 NDAA, thereby allowing funds to be used as match indefinitely.

How It Works:

- The REPI conservation partner must have an approved agreement with a military installation
 - Each installation has specific resource and mission needs to take into account when considering the appropriate matching grant program during the development of a project.
 - Only the military installation can submit a proposal requesting REPI funding for a project.
- The partner then submits an application to the appropriate NRCS, USFS, or USFWS grant program.
 - Applications should indicate that matching funds will come from the Department of Defense through the REPI Program and include information on whether the Military Service will be a co-grantee on the easement deed.



The Minotaur IV rocket makes its maiden flight from a Vandenberg AFB Space Launch Complex carrying the HTV-2a Hypersonic Test Vehicle.



The Lompoc Valley project property has been farmed since 1861 and through matching funding from REPI and NRCS permanently protects Vandenberg AFB launch complex impact limits from urban development. Photo courtesy of The Trust for Public Land.

¹ 10 USC § 2648a(h), as amended by the FY2014 NDAA.

² For more information about NRCS's easement program visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>.

³ For more information about the NAWCA Program and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program visit <http://www.fws.gov/grants/programs>.

CASE STUDY: THE LOMPOC VALLEY PROJECT

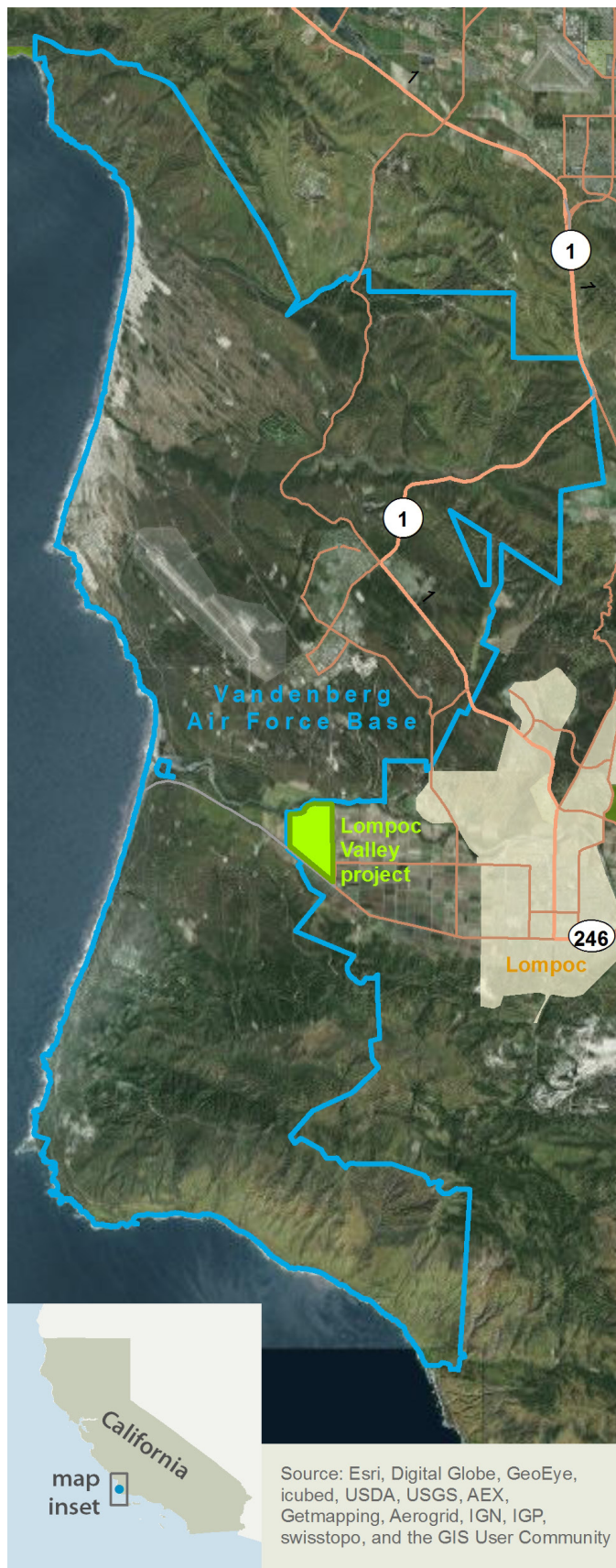
Preparation

In 2014, Vandenberg AFB submitted a REPI proposal requesting \$750,000 to place a conservation easement valued at \$1.5 million on 780 acres of prime farmland in Santa Barbara County. The farm is the last privately held property adjacent to the base in the western Lompoc Valley, surrounded on three sides by government land. Preserving this prime farm land prevents development that would be incompatible with Vandenberg's space launch and vehicle recovery mission.

In June 2014, The Trust for Public Land submitted an application for \$750,000 in USDA NRCS ACEP-Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) funding for the project. The application indicated that matching funds in the amount of \$750,000 would come from the DoD's REPI Program and that the Air Force would be a co-grantee to the easement.

Delivery

Vandenberg AFB allocated the REPI funding under an agreement with The Trust for Public Land, who executed a separate cooperative agreement with NRCS and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County for the ACEP-ALE funding. In November 2015, the team used the ACEP-ALE funds to match the REPI funds to acquire the easement from the Lompoc Valley project property owners. The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County was co-grantee on the agricultural easement and will manage and monitor the easement, while The Trust for Public Land assigned its easement to the Air Force.



The Lompoc Valley property is surrounded by Vandenberg AFB on three sides and is less than a half-mile from the impact limit line for Space Launch Complex-3, used to launch the Atlas V rocket. *Photo courtesy of Baroda Farms.*

For more information about using REPI funds as cost-share, please contact your local installation, the REPI Program office, your NRCS State Conservationist, local USDA Service Center, or USFWS NAWCA or Coastal grant administrators.